



John P. Walters, Director Office of National Drug Control Policy



John P. Walters was sworn in as Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), 2001. As the Nation's "Drug Czar," Walters coordinates all aspects of Federal drug programs and spending.

In 2002, President Bush and Mr. Walters released the *National Drug Control Strategy*, which set aggressive goals of a 10 percent reduction in teen and adult drug use in two years and a 25 percent reduction in five years. The latest *Monitoring the Future Study*, in 2004, showed a 17 percent reduction in teen drug use over three years, exceeding the President's goal and bringing drug use to its lowest levels in a decade.

Walters has directed critical changes to the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign, making the ads harder-hitting and more effective. Award-winning ads linking drug trafficking with terrorism and ads focusing on the harms of marijuana have been credited with helping change youth attitudes and behavior toward drugs. Walters also led a restructuring of the Federal drug control budget so that it more accurately reflects the actual dollars spent on programs aimed at reducing drug use.

Under Director Walters's leadership, counterdrug efforts in Colombia have generated dramatic progress, with a 33 percent decline in coca cultivation in two years. Overall, coca cultivation in the Andean region (Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru) has declined by 22 percent since 2001, preventing the production of over 500 metric tons of cocaine. This reduction also removed over \$100 million of the illicit income that supports narco-terrorism in Colombia.

Director Walters has overseen the creation and implementation of the "Access to Recovery" treatment initiative announced by President Bush in 2003. This innovative approach to drug treatment funding provides vouchers for Americans struggling with addiction.

Director Walters has extensive experience at ONDCP. From 1989 to 1991, he was chief of staff for William Bennett and was Deputy Director for Supply Reduction from 1991 until leaving the office in 1993. During his service at ONDCP, he was responsible for helping guide the development and implementation of anti-drug programs in all areas.

From 1996 until 2001, Walters served as president of the Philanthropy Roundtable. The Roundtable is a national association of over 600 foundations and individual donors, providing publications and programs on American charitable giving.

During the Reagan Administration, he served as Assistant to the Secretary at the U.S. Department of Education. He was also the Secretary's representative to the National Drug Policy Board and the Domestic Policy Council's Health Policy Working Group. Walters also served as Acting Assistant Director and Program Officer in the Division of Education Programs at the National Endowment for the Humanities. He holds a BA from Michigan State University and an MA from the University of Toronto.